

escape from being swept out to death in the fog, over the bar of the great river; the young hobo plunged in dissatisfaction with himself and his times, by his discovery of what he styles the "grand and glorious" life of Cellini.

The story that gives the collection its name, is hardly the outstanding one. Rather does "Three Bartenders" deserve that distinction. They might have emerged from the pages of O. Henry.

OLIVE SWAIN

Valiant La Verendrye. By IRENE MOORE. (Quebec: L.S.-A. Proulx, King's Printer, 1927. Pp. 384).

During the last few years students of Western American history have observed a real and fascinating character emerging out of the gloom of contention and the maze of uncertainty. Probably the greatest stimulus in this process was furnished by the Great Northern Railway Company's Upper Missouri Historical Expedition of 1925. Monuments were reared and the accompanying ceremonies were heralded in the public press. A railway station was named Verendrye in North Dakota. More than these, translations of the Verendrye journals were published in the *Oregon Historical Quarterly* for June, 1925, reprinted in a beautiful pamphlet by the Great Northern Railway Company and freely given to teachers and others interested. The first of these journals by the elder La Verendrye had been translated by Douglas Brymner, Archivist, and published as an appendix to the Report of the Minister of Agriculture, at Ottawa in 1889. The other journal, by Verendrye's sons, was translated from the French in the Margry Papers by Anne H. Blegen, of the Minnesota Historical Society. These journals were preceded by a charming story of the Verendrye explorations from the pen of Grace Flandreau. Another publication by the Great Northern Railway Company was a tiny pamphlet, about two by three inches, carrying on the covers a picture of the metal plate discovered in the ground near Pierre, South Dakota, on February 16, 1913. That tablet cleared up some of the mystery surrounding the supposed route of the Verendryes. Ambassador Jusser and translated it and commented on its real meaning. It was discussed in the *South Dakota Historical Collections*, Volume VII, pages 374-378, (1914).

La Verendrye was less neglected in Canada and especially

in his native Province of Quebec. A fine statue of him ornaments the front of the Parliament Building, Quebec. Streets, parks and villages bear his name. Pierre, the capital of South Dakota, is named for him and there is a small national park in North Dakota named Verendrye. Still America's practical neglect is well indicated by three citations: The *Cyclopedia of American Biography* omits the explorer under either his name Varennes or his title La Verendrye while the same work has articles, portraits and facsimile signatures of Cartier, Champlain and other French-Canadian discoverers. The 1923 edition of the *Standard Dictionary* has not the word Verendrye and says Varennes is a summer resort in Chambly and Vercheres district, Qubec. No indication of the source of that name is there given. Professor Carl Wittke of Ohio State University, in his *A History of Canada*, (published by Alfred A. Knopf of New York in 1928), on page 11 gives his judgment of the Veredryes as follows: "In 1731 La Verendrye and his three sons planned to carry the fur trade beyond Lake Superior. By the spring of 1733 one son had erected a fort at the mouth of the Winnipeg River, and five years later the party was established on the banks of the Missouri. Still searching for the 'Western Sea,' some of the group seem to have wandered westward and established contacts with the Crow and Shoshone Indians, but there is still much controversy over the exact route followed by this western expedition. It may have penetrated to the Saskatchewan valley and come within sight of the Rocky Mountains, although recent investigations would indicate that the explorers could not have reached any point west of the Black Hills of South Dakota." It is thus clear that the Verendrye controversy is still coloring the work of American historians.

Lawrence J. Burpee, the talented and industrious historian of Canada, in his *The Search for the Western Sea* (1908), gave about thirty pages to the Verendryes. That work and, as shown above, later publications are sure to awaken American readers and students as well as the writers of histories.

This present book, *Valiant La Verendrye*, would certainly add another spur of interest if it were made available to American readers, but such is not now the case. It has been published by the Quebec Department of Education for use in the Quebec schools. It is not on sale. The author, Miss Irene Moore, of the Leader Publishing Company, publishers of the *Morn-*

ing Leader and the Daily Post of Regina, Saskatchewan, submitted her manuscript in a competition arranged by the Quebec Government. It won for her the \$500.00 prize.

The volume is a masterpiece of its kind. The language, bubbling with the flavor of forests, rivers, lakes, mountains and prairies, is well sustained from beginning to end. There are no footnotes to fortify the many apt quotations but the reader cannot escape the feeling that the enthusiastic sincerity is accompanied by painstaking accuracy.

Pierre Gaultier de Varennes, Sieur de la Verendrye, was born at Three Rivers, Quebec, on November 17, 1685. He made his first trip into the country west of Lake Superior in 1731. Under great hardships the trips were continued. In 1742 his sons Francois and Louis Joseph made the third trip, resulting in the discovery of the Rocky Mountains. The French Government at last began to recognize and honor him. He then started preparations for another effort to reach the Western Sea, but death called him, while at Montreal, on December 6, 1749.

Those tardy honors proved of small avail. The French Government had been unable to grasp the value of Verendrye's main purpose, exploration. About the only aid given were grants for fur-trading. Verendrye used these with what now seem surprising results. Miss Moore, on pages 371-372, gives a graphic summary of those results as follows:

"A Giant's Causeway in earnest was made by the establishments La Verendrye erected, requiring but one more to be built to complete the chain of forts stretching from the Great Lakes to the Rocky Mountains. Pass in review these forts, substantial symbols of the civilization carried by the French-Canadian and his little company among the barbarians of unknown and forbidding hinterland regions: Fort St. Pierre, on Rainy Lake; Fort St. Charles, on the island-studded Lake of the Woods; Fort Maurepas, at the mouth of the Winnipeg River; Fort Rouge, where Winnipeg City now stands; Fort aux Roseaux, up the Red River a distance; Fort La Reine, on the Assiniboine where Portage La Prairie has arisen; the small fort at the junction of the Souris and Assiniboine; Fort Dauphine, on the north-west shore of Lake Manitoba; the first Fort Bourbon, at the mouth of the Riviere aux Biches; the second Fort Bourbon, at the mouth of the Saskatchewan River (Cedar Lake); Fort Le Pas, on the Saskatchewan River where now stands The Pas; and

Fort La Corne, just below the forks of the North and the South Saskatchewan. With the exception of three all were in flourishing condition at the time La Verendrye left the West. They were all at strategic points for fur-trading, thanks to La Verendrye's wisdom arising out of countless conversations with Indian canoe-men. The establishments that were built under his direction were placed so satisfactorily that for a hundred years to come the forts built in that part of Canada by the Hudson's Bay Company and the North-West Company were close to the sites he selected."

It is, of course hoped that other editions of the book may soon be issued and made available to the general public.

EDMOND S. MEANY

Women of the West. Compiled and edited by MAX BINHEIM.
(Los Angeles: Publishers Press, 1928. Pp. 223. \$6.00).

The recent volume, *Women of the West*, covers a little known but extremely interesting field not previously touched by the biographical dictionary. It consists, as the editor informs us of "a series of biographical sketches of living eminent women in the eleven western states of the United States." The names included in the compilation were submitted by organizations, institutions and individuals interested in a work of this kind, and a selection from these lists was made by the editor's staff.

The compilation of a dictionary of biography whether of a state or a group of states requires a vast amount of research as well as rare judgment in selecting those worthy of mention in the publication. The smaller the district covered, the larger the number of persons of average accomplishment suggested for inclusion and the greater the mass of material to be studied. The difficulties of such a task are apparent in *Women of the West*. The result is a praiseworthy effort.

A careful examination of the biographies for the State of Washington discloses a great deal of valuable and hitherto unprinted material. It is quite disappointing however to find among the omissions names of sufficient importance to have been included in *Who's Who in America* and *Who's Who in Washington* as Ada W. Anderson, Mrs. Josephine C. Preston, Anna L. Guthrie, Mrs. Harriett Shaw and Mrs. Marion M. McCredie. Also out of eighteen women of Washington mentioned in Mrs. Elmendorf's article on that subject, ten fail to be included